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I. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

On 15 February 1990, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/920 - S/21151), the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People stated the following:

"In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to draw your urgent attention to the ongoing escalation of repression by Israel, the occupying Power, against Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory.

"Since my letter to you of 15 January 1990 (A/44/914-S/21089), still more Palestinians, including children, have been killed or injured. According to a recent report of the DataBase Project on Palestinian Human Rights, 856 Palestinians have been killed between the beginning of the intifadah in December 1987 and 31 January 1990. Al-Fajr reported on 8 February 1990 that, during the month of January 1990, 23 Palestinians, including 10 children under the age of 18, had been killed by the Israeli army and hundreds injured.

"According to a report issued in January by Betzelem, the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, 136 Palestinian children under 16, including 40 aged 12 years or less, have been killed by the Israeli security forces since the beginning of the intifadah.

"Harsh collective punishment continues to be imposed. Al-Fajr reported on 5 February 1990 that, during the month of January, the military authorities had demolished 60 houses belonging to Palestinians in the occupied territory. The newspaper also stated that, during the same month, several hundred Palestinians had been detained for varying periods of time. On 8 February, the daily Ha'aretz announced that in its effort to quell the Palestinian uprising, Israel had recently introduced a new "mechanical slingshot" capable of shooting 600 stones a minute to a distance of 75 metres.

"Deeply alarmed at the extreme gravity of these increasing incidents of oppression and the mounting loss of life, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People deplores once again the repressive policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, which are in violation of that country's obligations under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 and are contrary to the provisions of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. The Committee considers that the adoption of urgent measures by the Security Council to provide international protection to Palestinian civilians, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/233 of 20 April 1989 and 44/2 of 6 October 1989, is imperative. The Committee calls upon you and the organizations of the United Nations system to take all necessary measures to alleviate the suffering of the unarmed Palestinians under occupation, especially women and children.

"The Committee wishes to stress once again the urgent need to advance towards a comprehensive and just settlement of the question of Palestine in accordance with the principles reaffirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/42 of 6 December 1989, and it reiterates its appeal to you and to all concerned to intensify efforts to attain this essential objective."

READEX

II. TWENTY-FOURTH UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE, HELD AT BUENOS AIRES FROM 5 TO 9 FEBRUARY 1990

The Twenty-fourth United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine (Fourth Latin American and Caribbean Regional Seminar) entitled "The inalienable rights of the Palestinian people", was held jointly with the First United Nations Latin American and Caribbean Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, at Buenos Aires from 5 to 9 February 1990, in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 44/41 B of 6 December 1989.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was represented by a delegation comprising: H.E. Mr. Oscar Oramas-Oliva (Cuba), Head of the delegation and Seminar Chairman; H.E. Mr. Alexander Borg-Olivier (Malta), who served as Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Seminar; H.E. Mr. Dragoslav Pejic (Yugoslavia), Vice-Chairman of the Seminar; and, Mr. Zuhdi Labib Terzi (Permanent Observer of Palestine).

A total of 9 meetings were held and 14 panelists presented papers on selected aspects of the question of Palestine. Representatives of 34 Governments, Palestine, 2 United Nations organs, 3 United Nations specialized agencies and bodies, 2 intergovernmental organizations as well as 27 non-governmental organizations attended the Seminar.

The joint event was opened by Mr. Oramas-Oliva and a welcoming address was made by H.E. Dr. Alfredo Carim Yoma, Secretary of State for Special Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina.

A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H. E. Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, was read out by his representative, Mr. Naseem Mirza, Chief, Division for Palestinian Rights. Mr. Oramas-Oliva also addressed the meeting, as did Mr. Ahmad Sobeh, representative of Palestine in Brazil, who read out a message from Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Further statements were made by the following: Mr. Oramas-Oliva on behalf of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; Mr. Virendra Gupta on behalf of the Special Committee against Apartheid; Mr. Sufian Barazi on behalf of the League of Arab States; and, Mr. Pejic on behalf of the Movement of Non-aligned Countries.

For its own part, the Seminar adopted a message to Mr. Arafat as well as a motion of thanks to the Government and people of Argentina. The Seminar also adopted a message to the Foreign Minister of Israel deploring that two Palestinians from the occupied territory had not been issued travel permits by the Israeli authorities and were thus unable to attend the meeting.

The three panels which were established and their panelists were as follows:

1. (a) "The urgency of convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East"; (b) "The intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territory and its impact on the achievement of a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict."

Archbishop Hilarion Capucci (Palestinian), Mr. Pedro Catella (Argentina), Mr. Amos Kenan (Israel), Mr. Luciano Ozorio Rosa (Brazil), Mr. Isam Kamel (Palestinian), Mrs. Francisca Sauquillo (Spain), Mr. Ricardo Valero (Mexico), H.E. Mr. Alberto Velazco-San José (Cuba)

2. "The role of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the social, cultural, economic and political development of the Palestinian people.

Ms. Wedjan Al-Borno (Palestinian)

3. "The mobilization of public opinion in the Latin American and Caribbean regions for the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people".

Mr. Thomas W. Gittens (Guyana), Mr. Jean-Marie Lambert (Office of the International Co-ordinating Committee for Non-Governmental Organizations on the Question of Palestine), Mr. Carlos Pachá (Argentina), Mr. Manuel Felipe Sierra (Venezuela), Mr. William Waack (Brazil)

The expert members of the panels agreed on summaries of the presentations and the discussion on the three topics. The full text of the proceedings will be published in due course as a publication of the United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The participants in the Seminar expressed their conviction that recent developments regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict and its core, the question of Palestine, have created a new momentum for bringing about a solution to this complicated and dangerous conflict on the basis of the resolutions of the United Nations and within its framework. These developments are mainly due to the courageous and determined struggle of the Palestinian people to attain and exercise its inalienable rights, primarily the right to self-determination, as dramatically manifested by the continuing Palestinian uprising, the intifadah, in the occupied Palestinian territory. The present international climate, the political will to resolve regional conflicts in a peaceful way through negotiations within the framework of the United Nations, is especially conducive to the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine. It is imperative that this historic opportunity not be missed and that efforts be redoubled in 1990 to overcome remaining obstacles so that the process of negotiations can be initiated without delay.

2. The participants in the Seminar, in reviewing developments concerning the question of Palestine, welcomed the decisions adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC) at Algiers in November 1988 and the constructive position outlined by Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO, in his address to the United Nations General Assembly at Geneva on 13 December 1988. These developments which led to the adoption of resolution 43/176 on 15 December 1988 became important landmarks in the international endeavours aimed at achieving a just settlementof the question of Palestine. The Seminar also noted with satisfaction the adoption of General Assembly resolution 44/42 of 6 December 1989. The participants were greatly encouraged by the vote on this balanced and comprehensive resolution, which was supported by an even larger number of States, including Latin American and Caribbean States, and for the first time, almost all Western States, all members of the European Community. This important development once again reflected the overwhelming support of the international community for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, on an equal footing, and the five permanent members of the Security Council, based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination.

3. The participants welcomed the fact that the Government of the United States of America had opened a dialogue with the PLO and emphasized that the scope of such a dialogue should be expanded to include the consideration in a constructive manner of substantive issues so as to enhance the process of negotiations leading to a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine.

4. The participants in the Seminar welcomed efforts by Israelis and Palestinians to engage in direct dialogue and joint activities as a way of promoting mutual understanding, as well as a process of reconciliation between the two sides and the creation of a climate more conducive to negotiations. They appreciated the recent initiative "1990, Time for Peace" of 29 to 31 December 1989 in Jerusalem, where many persons including Israelis and Palestinians, demonstrated in support of peaceful negotiations, respect of civil and human rights and in support of the two States/two peoples principle. The participants considered that the United Nations should offer its good offices and organize appropriate activities to bring together Palestinians and Israelis under its auspices.

5. The participants noted that there existed a wide measure of agreement within the international community that a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement in the Middle East should be based on the principles outlined in General Assembly resolutions 43/176 and 44/42 namely: withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and from the other Arab territories; acknowledgement of and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all the

States in the region, including Israel and Palestine, and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries; and finally, a satisfactory solution of the Palestinian problem based on the recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State in the occupied Palestinian territory.

6. The participants expressed serious concern at the continued grave violations by Israel, the occupying Power, of the human rights of the civilian population in the occupied Palestinian territory, causing even greater suffering to the Palestinian people under occupation with far-reaching socio-economic, demographic and emotional consequences. The entire international community, as represented at the United Nations, has repeatedly declared that the Israeli policies and practices against the Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory are in violation of the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, which is fully binding on Israel, a party to the Convention, and also contrary to United Nations resolutions and to the generally recognized norms of international law. A matter of special concern for the participants was the suffering inflicted on Palestinian women and children as a result of the brutal Israeli practices. In the Gaza Strip particularly, new measures to control the movement of individuals produced inhumane and intolerable conditions.

7. The process of Israeli colonization of the Palestinian territory as manifested in the continued establishment of settlements, usurpation of land and water resources, and the brutality of settler vigilantism, was unequivocally rejected and condemned by the participants. They noted with appreciation that the entire international community had vigorously opposed the Israeli policy of establishing settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, which was in contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention and stressed that Israel bore full responsibility for these illegal practices. The participants noted the expected increase in the number of Jewish immigrants to Israel and deplored the recent statements by the Government of Israel regarding the settlement of those immigrants in the occupied Palestinian territory. Any such action will be illegal and will complicate the attainment of a just and comprehensive settlement of the question of Palestine. The participants appealed to Governments to ensure that members of the Jewish community emigrating to Israel were not used as a tool to perpetuate Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory.

8. The participants were of the view that the Palestinian intifadah, was a clear manifestation of the popular, democratic expression of the collective will of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation that has given the struggle of the Palestinian people its hitherto suppressed identity, moral ascendancy and political maturity. The intifadah, now in its third year, embraces three dimensions: the overt and visible and fearless resistance to the Israeli occupation and, the indivisibility of the Palestinian people and

its sole and legitimate leadership, the PLO; the opportunity for social transformation and nation-building as the embodiment of statehood through the establishment of authentic, alternative popular infrastructure of the Palestinian society; and, finally, the intifadah was instrumental in bringing about a clear-cut political articulation and direction as manifested through the PNC decisions of November 1988. The participants supported the view expressed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations that the message of the intifadah was direct and unequivocal, namely, that the Israeli occupation, which had been in effect for 22 years, was unacceptable and would continue to be rejected, and that the Palestinian people were committed and determined to exercise their legitimate political rights, including self-determination, no matter what the price would be for attainment of their objective.

9. The Seminar appealed to the international community and, in particular, to the Security Council to take urgent measures to ensure physical protection of the Palestinian people under occupation, to guarantee the safety and security and the legal and human rights of the Palestinian people in all the territories under Israeli occupation. They urged the Security Council to take into account the gravity of the acts of violence, human rights violations, including the so-called policy of "transfer" or deportation of Palestinians, which has been repeatedly condemned by the Security Council and the General Assembly, and other forms of repression by Israeli authorities against Palestinian civilians in the occupied Palestinian territory, and that it should assume and discharge its responsibilities and ensure protection of the Palestinian people under occupation. The participants stressed de jure applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and demanded that Israel abide by the Convention.

10. The participants welcomed the courageous steps taken by the Palestinians during the intifadah to end the Israeli occupation and to set up an alternative infrastructure that could be used as a foundation for an independent and sovereign State of Palestine. The Seminar considered that intensified efforts towards genuine development of the occupied Palestinian territory, with the close involvement of the Palestinian people through its representative, the PLO, were a necessary corollary to renewed efforts to achieve a political solution of the question of Palestine.

11. The participants appealed to the Government of Israel to respond positively to the peace initiative by the PLO which has been welcomed and praised by the international community. Israel should recognize that it could no longer ignore the national aspirations of the Palestinians and deny them their inalienable rights, in particular, their right to self-determination. The Seminar considered that the steps proposed by the Israeli Government were inadequate, since they did not include interim measures of protection for the Palestinian people and measures which would ensure that Palestinians would be enabled to exercise fully their right to self-determination. The participants called upon Israel to respond positively and with courage to international efforts aimed at a just and lasting political settlement of the question of Palestine which would be of benefit to all parties concerned including the international community as a whole.

12. The Seminar took note with appreciation of the continuing endeavours by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to advance the peace process, including the prospects for convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. The participants in the Seminar urged the Security Council to expedite the convening of the International Peace Conference, and to adopt interim measures including the deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping force to safeguard the physical security of the people of the occupied Palestinian territory and to bring about stability in the region pending agreement on a final comprehensive settlement.

13. The Seminar strongly endorsed the persistent efforts of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to secure universal recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, and urged the international community to sustain and strengthen their support for the Committee's activities and, in particular, its efforts aimed at facilitating the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East.

14. The Seminar took note with appreciation of the activities of the Division for Palestinian Rights of the United Nations Secretariat and of its commitment to work, under the guidance of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, towards the attainment of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East which would, inter alia, ensure the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights.

15. The participants in the Seminar were of the view that the United Nations should undertake additional efforts to disseminate factual and up-to-date information on the question of Palestine and on the measures required for the achievement of a just settlement to the question of Palestine. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights have an important role to play in the collection and dissemination of such information. For its part, the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat should make every effort to ensure that accurate information on the question of Palestine receives the widest possible dissemination.

16. The Seminar noted with appreciation the steps taken by the countries members of the European Community in promoting the convening of the International Peace Conference, and in providing increased assistance to the Palestinian people.

17. The Seminar noted with appreciation the sustained and continuing support by the Governments and peoples of the Latin American and Caribbean region for the exercise by the Palestinian people of its legitimate national rights and for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. The position of these States was one of solidarity with and support for the struggle of the Palestinian people for an independent State of Palestine and for the exercise of its inalienable rights. In this context the Seminar

stressed the importance of Governments of Latin American and Caribbean States establishing diplomatic representation with the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people or upgrading of existing arrangements, as the case may be, as a manifestation of solidarity of the countries of the region with the people of Palestine. At the same time, the participants stressed that it was of utmost importance that all States in the Latin American and Caribbean region be unanimous in their support for the United Nations resolutions establishing the path for a comprehensive, peaceful solution to the question of Palestine. The participants in the Seminar, in particular, expressed their appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Argentina for its support of the cause of the Palestinian people and for the consistent support it has given to the question of Palestine at the United Nations.

18. The participants noted that Argentina was home of sizeable communities of Jews and Arabs who had arrived in various waves of immigration. They had prospered in peaceful coexistence, practising their religion, their traditions and their own customs, thus providing an excellent model for the people of Israel and Palestine to live together in peace and prosperity. The participants expressed their warm appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of Argentina for providing a venue for the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Seminar and NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, and for the facilities and warm hospitality extended to them. This meeting constituted an important contribution to the peace process related to the Middle East conflict and to the question of Palestine in particular.

III. FIRST UNITED NATIONS LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE, HELD AT BUENOS AIRES FROM 5 TO 8 FEBRUARY 1990

The First United Nations Latin American and Caribbean Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palesine on the theme "The inalienable rights of the Palestinian people", was held at Buenos Aires from 5 to 8 February 1990 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/41 B of 6 December 1989. The Symposium was held concurrently with the Twenty-fourth United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine which took place from 5 to 9 February 1990.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was represented by a delegation comprising: H.E. Mr. Oscar Oramas-Oliva (Cuba); H.E. Mr. Alexander Borg-Olivier (Malta); H.E. Mr. Dragoslav Pejic (Yugoslavia); and, Mr. Zuhdi Labib Terzi (Permanent Observer of Palestine).

The Symposium was attended by 27 NGOs, 2 of them as observers; also present were representatives of 34 Governments, Palestine, 3 United Nations specialized agencies and bodies, as well as 2 intergovernmental organizations.

The combined opening ceremony for the Symposium and the Seminar was addressed by those cited under section II above, regarding the concurrent seminar.

The Seminar and Symposium shared three panels on different aspects of the question of Palestine as described under section II above.

Two workshops specifically related to NGO activities were established to take up the following topics:

(a) "Mobilization and networking by non-governmental organizations to ensure the protection of, and promote assistance to, the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation"; and,

(b) "Non-governmental organization activities to further mobilize public opinion for the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people".

The declaration of the Symposium which was adopted unanimously by the participating NGOs, is reproduced below. The NGOs also elected an Interim Latin American and Caribbean Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine. The report together with action-oriented proposals of the two workshops will be issued in due course as a publication of the United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights.

DECLARATION

1. We, the Latin American Non-Governmental organizations (NGOS) meeting in the City of Buenos AIres, Argentina, from 5 to 9 February 1990, in the First United Nations Latin American and Caribbean Regional Seminar and NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, on the theme " The inalienable rights of the Palestinian People", declare our support for the struggle of the Palestinian people for independence and national liberation, in exercise of its rights to self-determination, as expressed in the heroic popular uprising, the intifadah, and through the diplomatic efforts deployed by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), its sole and legitimate representative.

2. We welcome the declaration of independence of the State of Palestine adopted by the Palestine National Council at its historic meeting at Algiers on 15 November 1988. We urge all Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to recognize the independent Palestinian State forthrightly and without delay. As a prior step, we call for the opening of diplomatic missions of Palestine.

3. We point out, that despite the considerable progress achieved at the international level in terms of peace, dialogue and co-operation, the question of Palestine continues to be one of the key conflicts threatening world peace, and is still awaiting a peaceful, just and lasting solution, despite the positive Palestinian peace proposals.

4. We reaffirm our commitment to continue working within the framework of the relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations, in particular General Assembly resolutions 43/176 of 15 December 1988 and 44/42 of 6 December 1989, which was adopted by an overwhelming majority of 151 Member States.

5. We stress the importance of the role the United Nations can play in any peace process, recalling its contribution which culminated in the full independence of the Namibian people, which can serve as a source of inspiration for the Middle East.

6. We call upon the United Nations to take urgently all possible measures which will permit effect to be given to the whole body of resolutions adopted on the question of Palestine.

7. We support the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of all parties involved in the conflict, including the PLO, on an equal footing, and of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

8. We express our appreciation of the declaration by President Yasser Arafat at the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly held at Geneva on 13 December 1988 in which he recognized the right of all States in the region to exist in peace and security, within secure and internationally recognized borders.

9. We call for the withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, as well from all other occupied Arab territories.

10. We pronounce ourselves in favour of resolving the problem of the Palestinian refugees within the framework of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and condemn any attempt to expel the Palestinians from their land.

11. We call for the immediate and total dismantling of the Jewish settlements established in the occupied territories since 1967, and condemn any policy designed to continue establishing new settlements.

12. We call on Governments and the competent international organizations to take measures to prevent Israel from settling Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union and other countries in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel, as the Israeli Prime Minister Y. Shamir has stated that they may be. We warn that bringing in new settlers will have harmful consequences for the Palestinians in the occupied territories, and recall that, inter alia, the Government of the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics have made official statements opposing it.

13. We firmly reject all diversionary attempts or manoeuvers by the Israeli Government and others to set obstacles in the way of negotiations for the establishment of the independent State of Palestine on Palestinian land.

14. We express our rejection and our strongest condemnation of the repressive methods and practices employed by the State of Israel against the Palestinian people. These have increased in extent and magnitude, affecting all sectors of the Palestinian population. The killings, beatings, mass arrests, expulsions, detention in concentration camps, sexual violence and imposition of curfews especially affect women and children and must end immediately.

15. We call for the immediate cessation of the policy of demolition of Palestinian housing, deforestation, confiscation of land and property, and the banning of sowing and harvesting.

16. We call for an immediate end to the press censorship as well as the imposition of penalties on those media which report the brutalities of the repression to which the Palestinians are subjected. The purpose of this censorship is to silence and weaken the international condemnation of these practices.

17. We call on the Israeli parliament, not to adopt amendment No. 3 to the Anti-terrorist Act of August 1989, which would give the State arbitrary powers to confiscate income and properties from the NGOs and would reduce the possibility of their receiving aid from international sources.

18. We reaffirm our support for the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, its sole and legitimate representative, and for its unified national leadership, the protagonist of the intifadah, which has entered its victorious third year.

19. We call for effective international political and economic pressure on Israel to make it comply with its obligations under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 and accept United Nations resolutions.

20. We appeal to the United Nations Security Council to take the appropriate measures to ensure the necessary United Nations presence for the protection of the Palestinian people and to put an end to the human rights violations in the occupied territory and to bring the perpetrators of these practices to justice.

21. We recommend an expansion of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency Refugee Affairs Officer Programme as a practical expression of international concern for the protection of the Palestinian people under occupation.

22. We also request that the specialized agencies of the United Nations pay greater attention to the Palestinian question, including by admitting the State of Palestine as a member, which will allow for an intensive exchange with the PLO and Palestinian NGOs with the aim of ensuring adequate coverage of needs in such sectors as education, health and development, without any control by Israel.

23. We condemn Israel's policy of closing Palestinian educational establishments in the occupied territories and all attempts to deprive children and young people of access to education. This practice is an insult to the norms which should govern the workings of a civilized society and violates a basic human right and we call for the immediate and unconditional reopening of all Palestinian educational establishments in the occupied territories.

24. We request Latin American and Caribbean educational establishments which maintain co-operation programmes with their Israeli counterparts to reconsider the terms of such co-operation so long as measures restricting education in the occupied territories remain in effect.

25. We warmly greet all peace-loving forces in Israel, and in the Jewish community abroad, that work vigorously in favour of the International Peace Conference and for the independent Palestinian State, under difficult conditions. We condemn the repression to which Israeli activists who advocate dialogue and peace have been subjected and the punishments meted out to Israeli soldiers who refused to suppress Palestinians in the occupied territories.

26. We welcome and support the initiative "1990, Time for Peace" taken by the European Peace Movement, the NGOs, Palestinian and Israeli peace-loving forces which demonstrated for peace 28 - 30 December 1989 and we deplore the repression to which the Israeli, Palestinian, European and American participants were subjected.

27. We call upon Governments which co-operate with Israel in the arms field, especially the United States of America, to cease to do so and we denounce the danger posed to world peace and security by the collaboration between South Africa and Israel in the nuclear sphere.

28. We call upon the Governments of Latin American and Caribbean countries to consider the possibility of applying economic, cultural and other sanctions against Israel as long as that country persists in its practice of violating the human rights of the Palestinian people.

29. We denounce the practices of the Government of Israel in Latin America, which takes the form of indiscriminate arms sales, the training of repressive groups and co-operation with dictatorial régimes and involvement in practices aimed at the destabilization of democratic Governments.

30. We call upon NGOs to work for dialogue and understanding among the Arab and Jewish communities in Latin America with a view to making a contribution to the peace process in the Middle East.

31. We request the Governments of Latin American and Caribbean countries to support the work of NGOs involved in promoting a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine.

32. We express our concern at the lack of information in Latin America on the question of Palestine, which hampers efforts to counter the systematic disinformation campaign orchestrated by pressure groups allied with the Israeli Government, and we request the United Nations to disseminate more information. We encourage also all mass media in the region to provide better coverage about the Middle East problem.

33. We consider that the establishment of a Latin American and Caribbean regional NGO committee on the Question of Palestine will be a significant step in the mobilization of public opinion for the achievement of a just and lasting solution of the problem under consideration. In this connection we seek maximum support from the United Nations and from the International Co-ordinating Committee and other regional committees.

34. We thank the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights for having convened this meeting. We also thank the Government of Argentina for the hospitality it has shown to us and the facilities it placed at our disposal.

IV. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ADOPTS RESOLUTIONS ON THE "QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE"

The Commission on Human Rights at its forty-sixth session adopted the following resolutions on the item entitled "Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine". Final edited texts will appear in the report of the forty-sixth session, which will be published in due course.

1990/1. "Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories

"The Commission on Human Rights,

"Recalling that, in accordance with article 13, paragraph 2, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to leave any country including his own and to return to his country,

"Affirming that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to all Palestinian and Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem,

"Seriously concerned at the recent suggestions that immigrants to Israel may be settled in the occupied territories,

"1. Affirms that the settling of Israeli civilians in the occupied territories is illegal and contravenes the relevant provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention;

"2. Calls upon the Government of Israel to refrain from settling immigrants in the occupied territories."

28th meeting
16 February 1990

1990/6. "Situation in occupied Palestine

"The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 181 A and B (II) of 29 November 1947 and 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, as well as other resolutions which confirm and define the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to self-determination without external interference,

"Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1865 (LVI) and 1866 (LVI) of 17 May 1974,

"Reaffirming its previous resolutions in this regard,

"Bearing in mind the reports and recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,

"Reaffirming the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant United Nations resolutions, and expressing its grave concern at Israel's persistence in preventing the Palestinian people by force from enjoying their inalienable rights, in particular their right to self-determination, in defiance of the principles of international law, United Nations resolutions and the will of the international community,

"Recalling that military aggression by the forces of any State against the territory of another State constitutes an offence agains the peace and security of mankind,

"Expressing its grave concern that no just solution has been achieved to the problem of Palestine, which constitutes the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict,

"Reiterating its grave concern at the military, economic and political support given by some States to Israel, which encourages and supports Israel in its aggressive and expansionist policies and its continued occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories,

"1. Reaffirms that the Israeli occupation of Palestine constitutes a gross violation of human rights and an offence against the peace and security of mankind;

"2. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination without external interference and the establishment of their independent sovereign State on their national soil in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly since 1947;

"3. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the Palestinians to return to their homeland Palestine, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194 (III) and subsequent relevant resolutions;

"4. Reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to recover their rights by all means in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with relevant United Nations resolutions, and affirms that the intifadah of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation since 8 December 1987 is a form of legitimate resistance and an expression of their rejection of the occupation;

"5. Reaffirms its support for the call to convene an effective international peace conference on the Middle East, with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, under the auspices of the United Nations, in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, and the guarantee of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, in particular their right to self-determination;

"6. Strongly condemns Israel for its continued occupation of the Palestinian territories, which constitutes the main obstacle to the exercise by the Palestinian people of their national rights, foremost of which is their right to free self-determination on their national soil;

"7. Calls upon Israel to comply with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and to withdraw from the Palestinian and other Arab territories which it has occupied since 1967, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

"8. Urges all States, United Nations organs, specialized agencies and other international organizations to extend their support and assistance to the Palestinian people through their representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, in their struggle to recover their rights and to liberate their land from Israeli occupation, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

"9. Requests the Secretary-General to make available to the Commission on Human Rights, prior to the convening of its forty-seventh session, all information pertaining to the implementation of the present resolution;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the Government of Israel with a view to its implementation and to report thereon to the Commission at its forty-seventh session;

"11. Decides to place on the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session, as a matter of high priority, the item entitled "The right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation" and to consider, in the context of this item, the situation in occupied Palestine."

29th meeting
19 February 1989

1990/2. "Question of violations of human rights in occupied Palestine

"A

"The Commission on Human Rights,

"Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

"Guided also by the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

"Taking into consideration the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and the Hague Convention IV of 1907, as well as the principles of international law affirmed by the General Assembly in resolutions 3 (I) of 13 February 1946, 95 (I) of 11 December 1946, 260 A (III) of 9 December 1948 and 2391 (XXIII) of 16 November 1968,

"Recalling the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 605 (1987) of 22 December 1987, 607 (1988) of 5 January 1988 and 608 (1988) of 14 January 1988,

"Recalling further General Assembly resolutions on Israeli violations of human rights in occupied Palestine,

"Taking note of the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, 1/

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the subject,

"1. Condemns the policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and, in particular, such acts as the opening of fire by the Israeli army and settlers that result in the killing and wounding of defenceless Palestinian civilians, the imposition of restrictive economic measures, the demolition of houses, the ransacking of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, collective punishment and detention, and confiscating the property of the inhabitants, including their bank accounts, as happened recently in Beit Sahour village;

"2. Affirms the right of the Palestinian people to resist the Israeli occupation by all means, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

"3. Calls upon Israel once more to desist from all forms of violations of human rights in occupied Palestine and to respect the principles of international law;

"4. Calls upon Israel to withdraw from Palestinian and the other occupied Arab territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the Commission on Human Rights;

1/ A/44/599.

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and international humanitarian organizations, to disseminate it on the widest possible scale, and to report on its implementation to the Commission on Human Rights at the forty-seventh session;

"6. Further requests the Secretary-General to provide the Commission with all United Nations reports issued between sessions of the Commission that deal with the conditions in which the population of occupied Palestine are living;

"7. Decides to consider this subject at its forty-seventh session as a matter of high priority.

"B

"The Commission on Human Rights,

"Recalling Security Council resolutions 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981, 592 (1986) of 8 December 1986 and 605 (1987) of 22 December 1987, as well as all its previous resolutions on the application of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 to the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel and the refusal of Israel to abide by those Conventions,

"Recalling all relevant General Assembly resolutions,

"Recalling the decisions of the International Conference of the Red Cross in respect of the application of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,

"Recalling its previous resolutions on this question,

"Taking into account that States parties to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War undertake, in accordance with article 1 thereof, to respect and ensure respect for, the Convention in all circumstances,

"Recalling the wide international support to the accession of Palestine to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, as expressed in resolution 1989/4 of 31 August 1989 adopted by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its forty-first session, as well as in the resolution adopted by the Ninth Summit of the Non-Aligned Countries in Belgrade in September 1989, which both welcomed the accession of Palestine to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949,

"1. Reaffirms that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to all Palestinian and Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;

"2. Welcomes with high appreciation the accession of Palestine to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949;

"3. Urges once more all States parties to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War to make every effort to ensure respect for, and compliance with, the provisions of that Convention in all the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;

"4. Strongly condemns once more Israel's refusal to apply the Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War to Palestine and the Arab territories occupied since 1967 and to their inhabitants, and Israel's policies of ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian detainees and prisoners in Israeli prisons and concentration camps, and its disregard for the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949;

"5. Strongly condemns Israel for its violations of article 49 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War by pursuing a policy of deportation and expulsion of Palestinian citizens, and calls upon Israel to comply with the resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights which provide for their return to their homeland, and to desist forthwith from this policy;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, the regional intergovernmental organizations, the international humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations, and to submit a report on progress in its implementation to the Commission at its forty-seventh session;

"7. Decides to consider this subject at its forty-seventh session as a matter of priority."

28th meeting
16 February 1990

1990/3. "Human rights in the occupied Syrian Arab territories

"The Commission on Human Rights,

"Deeply concerned by the suffering of the population of Syrian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967 and by continued Israeli military occupation and that the human rights of the population continue to be violated,

"Recalling Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981, in which the Council, inter alia, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan was null and void and without international legal effect, and demanded that Israel

should rescind forthwith its decision,

"Recalling General Assembly resolutions 36/226 B of 17 December 1981, ES-9/1 of 5 February 1982, 37/88 E of 10 December 1982, 38/79 F of 15 December 1983, 39/95 F of 14 December 1984, 40/161 F of 16 December 1985, 41/63 F of 3 December 1986, 42/160 F of 8 December 1987, 43/21 of 3 November 1988, 43/58 F of 6 December 1988 and 44/2 of 6 October 1989,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3414 (XXX) of 5 December 1975 and other relevant General Assembly resolutions in which it, inter alia, demanded the immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of Israel from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974, in which the Assembly defined an act of aggression,

Reaffirming once more the illegality of Israel's decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Syrian Arab Golan, which has resulted in the effective annexation of that territory,

Reaffirming that the acquisition of territories by force is inadmissible under the Charter of the United Nations and that all territories thus occupied by Israel must be returned,

Taking note with deep concern of the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Arab Territories of 12 October 1989, 2/

Recalling its resolution 1989/1 of 17 February 1989,

Recalling the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949; and relevant provisions of The Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907,

"1. Strongly condemns Israel, the occupying Power, for its refusal to comply with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, particularly Council resolution 497 (1981) in which the Council, inter alia, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Arab Golan was null and void and without international legal effect and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, should rescind forthwith its decision;

2. Condemns the persistence of Israel in changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan;

3. Determines that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, that purport to alter the character and legal status of the Syrian Arab Golan are null and void, and constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and have no legal effect;

2/ Ibid.

"4. Strongly condemns Israel for its attempt to impose forcibly Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and to impose a boycott on their agricultural products and calls upon it to desist from its repressive measures against the population of the Syrian Arab Golan;

"5. Calls once again upon Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administratives measures and actions referred to above;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, the regional intergovernmental organizations and the international humanitarian organizations and to give it the widest possible publicity, and to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session;

"7. Decides to place on the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session, as a matter of high priority, the item entitled "Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine."

28th meeting
16 February 1990

V. EXCERPT FROM JOINT DECLARATION OF EIGHTH ASEAN-EC MINISTERIAL MEETING, HELD AT KUCHING, MALAYSIA, ON 16 AND 17 FEBRUARY 1990

"The Ministers discussed recent developments in the Middle East and in particular the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question. They expressed their grave concern over the deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories. They stressed the urgency of a settlement which would uphold the right to security of all States in the region, including Israel, that is to say, to live within secure, recognized and guaranteed frontiers, and would uphold justice for all the peoples of the region, which includes recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination with all that this implies, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

"They noted that since their last meeting significant developments have taken place on the international political scene, which have opened up new opportunities for action by the international community with a view to achieving a comprehensive and just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. In this context, the ASEAN Ministers welcomed the positive approach of the EC as set out in the Madrid and Strasbourg Declarations.

"The Ministers reaffirmed their support for an International Conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, which would provide an appropriate forum for negotiations on a peace settlement."

[see A/45/138-S/21161, annex, paras. 17 to 19]

VI. UNITED NATIONS SPONSORS ENCOUNTERS FOR NORTH AMERICAN, LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN JOURNALISTS ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/41 C of 6 December 1989, the North and Latin American and Caribbean regional journalists' encounter on the question of Palestine was held at Buenos Aires from 12 to 14 February 1990. A series of national encounters were also held at Mexico City on 2 February; at Santiago on 15 February; and, at Port-of-Spain on 20 February.

The objective of the events was to promote better understanding of the question of Palestine among leaders of the media by bringing them together with experts on the subject for brief, in-depth, informal and candid discussion.

Regional encounter

The following panelists addressed the participants: Mr. Zuhdi Labib Terzi, Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations; Mr. Amos Kenan, member, Joint Israeli-Palestinian Writers' Association columnist, Israeli daily Yediot Aharonot; and, Mr. Saad Chedid, author and journalist, Advisor to the Secretary of Justice of Argentina.

The encounter was moderated by Mr. Armando Duque, Director, Office of the Under-Secretary-General, Department of Public Information.

A total of 25 journalists representing the press and television media of 18 nations participated in the encounter. The following topics were addressed: historical review of the origins of the Palestinian question; the United Nations and the question of Palestine; the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people; Israel and the question of Palestine; and, prospects for a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem.

The event was attended by a number of representatives of NGOs and foreign embassy officials based in Buenos Aires. During the course of the encounter, panelists had the opportunity to give individual radio and television interviews to the panelists.

National encounters

The panel for the three encounters comprised Mr. Zuhdi Labib Terzi and Mr. Amos Kenan. Proceedings were moderated by Mr. Mahmoud El-Said of the Department of Public Information.

Some 60 journalists, as well as representatives of NGOs, senior governmental and foreign diplomats attended each national encounter. Local television and radio stations in each city covered the events and interviewed both panelists.

Debates at all events, whether regional or national, were lively, frank and objective. Journalists were of the view that the encounters had gone far in promoting understanding of the background and current status of the question of Palestine and as a result of information received, they would be filing articles on the subject in the future with better understanding. It was explained that the Department of Public Information had always invited the Israeli Government to nominate a panelist to present the Israeli position at such events. No reply, however, had ever been received.

VII. ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN REGARDING ISRAELI PLANS TO SETTLE SOVIET JEWS IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN AND ARAB TERRITORIES

In a letter dated 5 February 1990 to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, (A/45/114 - S/21134, annex), the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference stated the following:

"I wish to convey to Your Excellency the grave concern of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on the extremely serious situation arising from Israeli plans to settle the Jews from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the Palestinian and Arab lands under the illegal occupation of Israel since 1967.

"OIC believes that the settlement of Soviet Jews in Palestinian and Arab territories under Israeli occupation would impede the prospects for the political settlement of the Middle East question and have incalculable consequences for regional peace and stability.

"The aforementioned Israeli plans for establishing further settlements constitute a flagrant violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, as well as of international law. Moreover, it violates the United Nations resolutions that expressly forbid Israel, as the occupying Power, from changing the demographic composition of the West Bank and the Gaza strip.

"The United Nations must take serious cognizance of the Israeli policy of establishing new settlements in the territories under the illegal occupation, coupled with the forceful eviction of the Palestinian people from their homes and lands. It is imperative that the United Nations mobilize all its efforts to prevent further emigration of Soviet Jews to Palestinian and Arab lands under Israeli occupation.

"I would request you to take urgent and effective action on the question of emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union and to do everything possible to safeguard the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, the establishment of the State of Palestine in their homeland and all other basic human rights.

"I would also request you to further the diplomatic and political process for establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East based on equity and justice for the Palestinian people."

VIII. NON-GOVERNMENTAL INFORMATION: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

In the course of February, the following information was received by the Division for Palestinian Rights:

1. I.C.C.P. Newsletter No.21, available from: the International Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine, 150 route de Ferney, Case postale 2100, CH-1211 Genève 2, Switzerland.

2. Al Hadaf Newsletter, available from: Al Hadaf Cultural Foundation, P. O. Box 169, 30010 VMM El Fahm, Israel.

3. I. J. P. U., newsletter of the International Jewish Peace Union. The February issue contains material provided by the Workers' Organization for Political Prisoners in Tel Aviv. Available from: International Secretariat, I.J.P.U., BP44/75462 Paris Cedex 10, France.

4. The Other Front, monthly publication, available from: The Alternative Information Centre, 14 Korrsh Street, P.O. Box 24278 Jerusalem.

5. Jerusalem, publication of Palestine Committee for NGOs, available from: B.P. 554, Tunis, Cedex, 1080, Tunis, Tunisia.

6. Palestine News Agency, Inc., newsletter available from: National Press Building, Suite 1071, 529 14th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20045, United States of America.

7. Palestine Review, newsletter available from: New Zealand/Palestine Publications, P.O. Box 29-168, Christchurch, New Zealand.

8. Another Viewpoint, monthly newsletter available from: 604 Barbera Place, Davis, CA 95616, United States of America.

9. Friendship, journal of the All India Indo-Arab Friendship Association. Available from: MIG 38-B, Pocket-C, Ashok Vihar-III, Delhi-110052, India.

10. A.D.C. Times, journal of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. Available from: 4201 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20008, United States of America.

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